

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a frame of data comprising:

a finger resource for partitioning said frame of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

a plurality of channel elements for demodulating data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols, respectively; and

a RAM for writing, and subsequently reading, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system.

wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 23 wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

Claim 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

a finger resource for partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols; and

a plurality of channel elements assigned to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively;

wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements assigned to each frame of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

Claims 28-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a frame of data comprising:

- means for partitioning said frame of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

- means for assigning a plurality of channel elements to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols, respectively;

- means for demodulating said plurality of portions of data symbols by said plurality of assigned channel elements, respectively; and

- means for writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system;

wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 34 wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

Claim 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) In a communication system, an apparatus for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

means for partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols; and

means for assigning a plurality of channel elements to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively;

wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements assigned to each frame of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 37 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 37 further comprising:

means for receiving information related to a data rate of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data.

Claims 40-43. (Canceled)

44. (New) In a communication system, a method for processing a frame of data comprising:

partitioning said frame of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols;

assigning a plurality of channel elements to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols, respectively;

demodulating said plurality of portions of data symbols by said plurality of assigned channel elements, respectively; and

writing to, and subsequently reading from, demodulated data symbols from said plurality of channel elements, a RAM in accordance with a de-interleaving function in said communication system;

wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements is based on a data rate of data symbols of said frame of data.

46. (New) In a communication system, a method for processing a plurality of frames of data comprising:

partitioning each of said plurality of frames of data into a plurality of portions of data symbols; and

assigning a plurality of channel elements to each of said plurality of frames of data to demodulate data symbols of said plurality of portions of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data, respectively;

wherein the number of said plurality of channel elements assigned to each frame of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the number of said plurality of portions of data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data is based on a data rate of the data symbols in each of said plurality of frames of data.

48. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising:

receiving information related to a data rate of data symbols of each of said plurality of frames of data.